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PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

President KIM IL SUNG Sends Message To Mr. Brezhnev

DPRK President Kim Il Sung, who is concurrently General Secretary of the ruling Workers' Party of Korea, sent a message of greetings on July 5 to Mr. Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of conclusion of the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

The message reads in part:

The conclusion of the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance between Korea and the Soviet Union 20 years ago was an event of weighty significance in bringing the relations of fraternal friendship between our two peoples to a new higher stage.

Since the conclusion of this treaty the relations between Korea and the Soviet Union have constantly developed on the principles of complete equality, mutual respect for sovereignty, non-interference in others' internal affairs and comradely cooperation and our two peoples have closely supported and cooperated with each other on the road of struggle to check and frustrate the aggressive and belligerent manoeuvres of imperialism and defend world peace and security.

We are convinced that the traditional relations of friendship and cooperation forged between our two parties, two countries and two peoples on the basis of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism will further expand and develop in the future through the common struggle against imperialism and for the victory of the cause of socialism and communism.

I take this opportunity to sincerely wish you and the fraternal Soviet people greater success in the struggle for the implementation of the decisions of the 26th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the further strengthening and development of the Soviet society.

Message from Soviet Leaders

A message of greetings dated July 5 came to President Kim Il Sung and Premier Li Jong Ok from Mr. L. Brezhnev and Mr. N. Tikhonov, party and state leaders of the Soviet Union, on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the conclusion of the treaty.

Follows a gist of the message:

The last twenty years since the conclusion of the treaty have proved that the treaty plays an important role in developing friendship and cooperation between our two countries and ensuring peace and security in the Far East.

Proceeding from the decisions of the 26th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the Soviet Union consistently pursues the policy of deepening and enriching the relations with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and expresses invariable solidarity with the Korean people in the struggle to make the foreign troops withdraw from south Korea and reunify the country in a peaceful and democratic way free from foreign interference.

The forces of imperialism and reaction, militarism and hegemonism try to put an end to detente, spur on the arms race and pursue the policy of violent force and dictatorship. This extremely complicates the international situation. Under such condition the solidarity of socialist countries and their unity in action constitute a reliable guarantee for defending the revolutionary gains of the people, a powerful factor in the struggle for peace and international security and a guarantee for all the new successes in socialist and communist construction.

On this significant day we wish the entire working people of people's Korea greater success in carrying out the tasks of social, economic and cultural construction set forth at the Sixth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea and in the struggle for the peaceful reunification of the country.

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Pyongyang on 20th Year-Old Friendship Between DPRK & Soviet Union

Rodong Sinmun, official organ of the Central Committee of the WPK, July 6 printed an editorial entitled "20 Years of Fraternal Friendship and Cooperation".

Follows a summary of the editorial:

The conclusion of this treaty between Korea and the Soviet Union on July 6, 1961 on the principles of complete equality, mutual respect for sovereignty, non-interference in other's internal affairs and comradely cooperation was of weighty significance in developing friendly and cooperative relations between the two peoples.

On this anniversary the Korean people extend warm congratulations and greetings to the brotherly Soviet people.

Over the past 20 years Korean and Soviet peoples have made all efforts to eliminate the danger of a new war and defend peace and security in Asia and the world against imperialism.

The traditional Korean-Soviet friendship forged in the course of the long-drawn anti-imperialist joint struggle is favorably developing day by day in the interests of the two peoples.

The Korean people are pleased with the steady strengthening of the traditional relations of friendship and cooperation between the two parties, two countries and two peoples of Korea and the Soviet Union.

In recent years the Soviet people have made a new progress in socialist and communist construction under the leadership of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Today the Soviet people are registering many successes in their efforts to carry out the first year target of the new five-year plan put forward at the 26th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and actively striving to ease the international tension and defend world peace.

We are sincerely rejoiced over all achievements made by the fraternal Soviet people and heartily wish them new successes in their strug-

(Continued on page 8)

Iran Ousts 3 S. Korean "Diplomats"

Iran decided to downgrade her diplomatic relations with south Korea to charge d'affaires level, according to a report July 7 from Teheran.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry told three south Korean "diplomats" to leave Iran within 48 hours. They had been declared personae non grata.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry told the south Korean embassy that in the future it should be staffed by "three diplomats and four non-diplomatic staff". All other members of the embassy have been given two weeks to leave Iran.

Seoul Workers Continue Labour Disputes

Workers employed in the Seoul Branch Office of the Japan Air Lines Company have been engaged in labour disputes since early March, the longest labour dispute in south Korea's history. It is said that the workers' struggle will escalate.

The workers of the Seoul Branch of the Japan Air Lines in March demanded a 48 percent wage hike corresponding to price boosts, the improvement of working conditions and equal wage, welfare and other benefits to those of the Japanese employees.

But the company April 1 presented an only 14 percent wage increase and did not make any proposal regarding the improvement of working conditions to the same level of the Japanese employees.

The workers turned down the compromise plan by the company, and to press for their original demand, staged a round-the-clock strike on June 22. Ninety-seven workers or almost all the Korean employees joined the strike.

On June 25, the company informed workers of its decision to cancel a free-ticket system applied to the family members of the employees. The workers called the decision a discriminative step against the Korean workers and a retaliation.

Chief of the Seoul Branch Ishihara told the workers that the step had been taken to counter the workers' action, which implied that the step taken was a retaliation.

No action of this kind is allowed in any other countries. South Korean workers employed by Japanese firms receive lower wages than the Japanese employees there and their working conditions are inferior, too.

Philippine Students Call Chon Puppet Fascist Dictator

Some 50 students July 8 gathered in front of the south Korean "embassy" in Manila to protest against Chon Du Hwan's visit to their country. The demonstrators, members of the Student League for Nationalism and Democracy, called Gen. Chon "an imperialist's puppet fascist dictator" and denounced him for the Kwangju massacre. During Chon's visit to the ASEAN nations, anti-Chon protests occurred twice, including the one which took place in Bangkok on July 2. (AP)

1st Half Year Plan Fulfilled at Many Units

First-half year assignments were fulfilled ahead of schedule at many factories and enterprises in different economic fields of the DPRK, according to the June 29 report from Pyongyang.

The Pyongyang Thermal Power Plant beat ahead of time its first half-year target and the Chongchongang Thermal Power Plant surpassed the scheduled first half-year plan, by increasing the power output per generating unit 20 percent.

In mining industry, too, many units fulfilled their tasks for the first half year. They include: The August Mine; the Sonchon, Cholwon, Sinwon and Ryongun mines; and Muchon Coal Mine.

The February 8 Cement Factory on June 17 carried out its assignments for the first half of the year by normalising its cement output on the highest level since the factory commissioned.

The transport workers under the General Bureau of Land Transportation of the Ministry of Land and Sea Transportation also fulfilled their first half-year plan for freight transport more than ten days earlier than schedule.

The pharmaceutical factories under the Kaesong Municipal, Nampo Municipal and South Hamgyong Provincial Herb Medicine Administrations and a great many local industrial factories of the country have reported the fulfilment of their first half-year plan.

At not only these economic units but also at many other economic spheres first-half year tasks have been achieved.

Power output is on the increase as many power plants are raising their outputs.

The Pyongyang and Pukchang thermal power plants maintain a high level of production on the normal basis, by keeping the generating installations in full-capacity operation. The Chongchongang Thermal Power Plant in June boosted the daily output by more than 80 percent above that of the same period of last year. The generating capacity was also resided 30 percent at the Changjingang Power Station which greatly increased the power output.

The construction of the Chongjin Thermal Power Plant and the expansion project of the Pukchang Thermal Power Plant are progressing at fast pace. The construction of the Sodusu Power Station No.3 has entered the stage of assembling installations. 12 objects will be completed this year in North Pyongan Provence alone.

The production of machinery and equipment have been increased. The Ministry of Machine-Building Industry topped its plan 6.6 percent in May, by increasing production of lorries, electric motors, transformers, machine tools and other machines and equipment and ordered equipment.

Transport achieved its first half-year plan more than ten days earlier than schedule. Photo shows an electric locomotive running in Tanchon, S. Hamgyong Province.

On June 10 the first half-year plan of ore production was hit. Mining is one of the leading industries of the nation. Photo shows the Chaeryong Ore Mine, S. Hwanghae Province.

The Taean Heavy Machine Combine, in particular, is carrying out its daily assignments as more than 120 percent in the production of ordered equipment such as large generating equipment and various types of rolling machines.

Mining industry also boosted the production. The Anju District Coal Mining Complex which is being reconstructed on an expansion basis into a large-scale high-caloric coal production base raised the average monthly coal output per cutting face to 6,000 10,000 tons. The Tokchon District Coal Mining Complex upped the daily coal output by over 10 percent in May as against April and the Aoji Coal Mine boosted the daily coal output by 60 percent above that of the end of last year.

In May the locomotive corps across the country transported 2,986,000 more tons of freight than the traction norm. The locomotive corps under the Kaechon Railway Administration carried 30-50 percent more load than the traction capacity. At the west Pyongyang locomotive corps under the Pyongyang Railway Administration each locomotive carries two or more 50-ton waggons outside their norm on an average. Transport workers under the Hamhung Railway Administration are carrying 55,000 more tons of freighi than the traction norm on a daily average.

The electrification of railways has been pushed ahead now, with the raised proportion of electric traction in the aggregate railway freight haulage up to 87.5 percent. The Chongjin Railway Administration carries more load by effectively organizing centralized transport of such large freight as chemical fertilizers, ore, coal and timber. In April and May it carried 23,000 more tons of chemical fertilizers than the plan.

The output of frozen and processed fish shows a steady increase. Many fishery stations so far boosted the output of frozen fish 34 percent and that of processed fish 10 percent in March comparing with the same period of last year.

Bumper crops of wheat and barley visited the Ongjin and Kangryong combined farms, double-crop areas in South Hwanghae Province. The farms foresee a growth of 1 to 2 tons in their per hectare harvest above last year's. The Kangryong Combined Farm confidently looks ahead to a harvest of 6 tons on an average per hectare from the whole barley fields and 6.5 to 7 tons from 70 hectares.

Capital construction has been promoted. On the bank of the Taedong River in Pyongyang the Munsu Street is taking shape at a rapid speed. There will be built multi-storeyed flats for ten thousand or more families and many public establishments. 2.5 times as many dwelling houses as those built last year will be constructed this year in Hamhung. The combined housing construction office is undertaking the construction of flats for over 2,000 families. In the rural villages, modern dwelling houses for 1,200 households are under construction in Miru district, Singye, North Hwanghae Province.

New industrial creatives were also built. At the Ryongsong Machine Complex in S. Hamgyong Province, an all-purpose extra-large gantry planing machine was built in early May. This machine does work of boring and drilling at the same time, consuming power 50% less than the former large size planers. The 14,000-ton cargo ship "Chipsam" was also launched at the Chongjin Shipyard in N. Hamgyong Province on May 17. Very recently a projection for drawing upstream the water of the Potong River was completed. The supplementary project of the Amnoggang Irrigation Setups in North Pyongan Province was also completed recently. The project was wounded up in a brief period even though it entailed the tunnelling of hundreds of meters, building of 52-kilometer-long water channels and multi-stage water pumping stations equipped with scores of large pumps. The completion of this project further perfected the rotating irrigation system of big reservoirs in the province and increased the water storage of reservoirs. This has made it possible to fully feed not only the paddy and non-paddy fields in this area but also the new fields to be obtained by reclaiming tideland.

Two big lock gates over the Taedong River are under construction. One of these planned lock gates will control the flow of the river freely to prevent any big flood. The water of the reservoir will be used in the production of electricity to be supplied to Pyongyang and its suburban area. Through the lock gate big ships will be able to freely navigate the river up and down and two roads will be built on it. Another one, stemming the sea in a nearly eight kilometer long area is a vast project unprecedented in the history of the nation. When the construction of the lock gate is completed, irrigation water will be sufficiently supplied to Nampo Municipality, Onchon and Chungsan counties of South Pyongan Province and to paddy fields to be obtained by reclaiming tideland on the west coast. The project will also solve the question of industrial water to convert Nampo Municipality into an industrial base and raise the water level of the Taedong River. A separate gate will be built in the lock gate to enable the fishes in the West Sea to move into the Taedong River freely. A railway and motor road will be built on the dam of the lock gate.

Trade with Japan Must Develop into Economic Cooperation

Trade between the DPRK and Japan started over 28 years ago or just after the Korean War in 1953. The Japan-Korea Trade Association, which has been working not only for the development of economic relationships but also for the promotion of friendship between the DPRK and Japan, was founded 25 years ago or on May 6, 1956. A meeting celebrating the 25th founding anniversary of the association was held in May in Japan. A delegation, headed by Li Se Ung, of the Committee for the Promotion of International Trade of the DPRK visited here from May 13 to June 1 to attend this celebration.

The People's Korea interviewed Mr. Aikawa Riichiro, executive director of the Japan-Korea Trade Association, on the occasion of the 25th founding anniversary of his association. Follows the interview:

Mr. Aikawa Riichiro, executive director of the Japan-Korea Trade Association

Q: ***How did trade between the DPRK and Japan start?***

A: Shortly after the end of the Korean War, some Japanese businessmen were interested in trade with the DPRK, while others were trying to start trade with China.

Japanese traders made great efforts to open trade with the DPRK, meeting the DPRK's leaders in Beijing, going to Pyongyang from Beijing and stopping over in Pyongyang on their way to Japan from Moscow. In such a situation, they often held meetings to discuss their problems. Such meetings came to be held very frequently and led to the founding of the Japan-Korea Trade Association on March 6, 1956.

At that time Japanese traders wanting to trade with the DPRK, demanded the Japanese government recognize trade with the DPRK. But due to obstructive manoeuvers by the south Korean authorities, the Japanese government did not permit our request.

In this situation, we decided to use Talian Port of China as a trading port with the DPRK, because Japan was already conducting trade with China. The DPRK carried export goods by car or train to Talian Port where Japanese cargoships were waiting. Trade with the DPRK started as a form of trade with China.

Q: ***What was the most impressive event in the 25-year history of trade between two countries?***

A: Among the many difficulties I experienced, the most impressive fact is that despite the Japanese government's refusal to recognize trade with the DPRK, Japanese traders worked hard under any circumstances to realize Japan-Korea trade.

Sometimes they had to suffer from losses but they were never afraid of such a burden. As a result, we are now able to trade with the DPRK directly.

When Japan-China trade was temporarily suspended because of the Chinese national flag incident which occurred in Nagasaki City, it became impossible to continue trade with Korea. At that time, we started trade via Hongkong.

The efforts of Japanese traders to develop trade with the DPRK to a higher level, disregarding profits, are the most impressive thing in the 25-year history of our association.

Q: ***Last year DPRK's trade with Japan attained a record figure. What do you think of the present state of Japan-Korea trade?***

A: I think last year's achievement is a very good thing. It seems to me that Japan-Korea trade must be developed on to a higher plane in future.

At present, we handle only daily necessities, but in future, transactions should be raised to a higher level – joint development of rich natural resources of the DPRK, including coal, metals and aquatic products. In other words, it must be developed into economic cooperation, together with promotion of commodity trade.

The DPRK recorded the highest figure in its trade with Japan last year. However, its export rate with Japan was 1:2. This is an unbalanced result. Exports to Japan should be increased.

Q: ***What do you think of the visit of the DPRK trade delegation to Japan to attend the 25th anniversary meeting of the Japan-Korea Trade Association?***

A: At a time when a further development of trade between Japan and the DPRK was urgently required, the trade delegation of the Republic visited Japan and attended the 25th founding anniversary meeting of our association. The delegation also had talks with Japanese economists and businessmen to discuss ways of promoting trade with Japan.

The delegation in these talks once again realized that there was enough scope for further economic development in the DPRK and also said that its trade with Japan would be further promoted.

Last year, the DPRK's ten-point economic goals were set forth at the 6th Party Congress. There is no doubt that these economic tasks will be fully achieved. If the DPRK cooperates with Japan in various economic fields, including mining and fishery, it will be able to achieve its economic goals farther ahead of schedule. This will also promote the two countries' common interests.

Good relationships between Japan and the DPRK will also contribute toward the peace of Asia.

The DPRK's trade delegation's visit to Japan this time is of great significance, because it clearly showed to Japanese economists and businessmen that its trade with Japan would be further developed in various ways in future, too.

Q: ***What is the urgent task of Japan-DPRK trade?***

A: To develop trade, exchange between both peoples must be achieved. Until today firms severally visited each other. In future, industrial delegations such as coal industry and metal industry delegations must be exchanged.

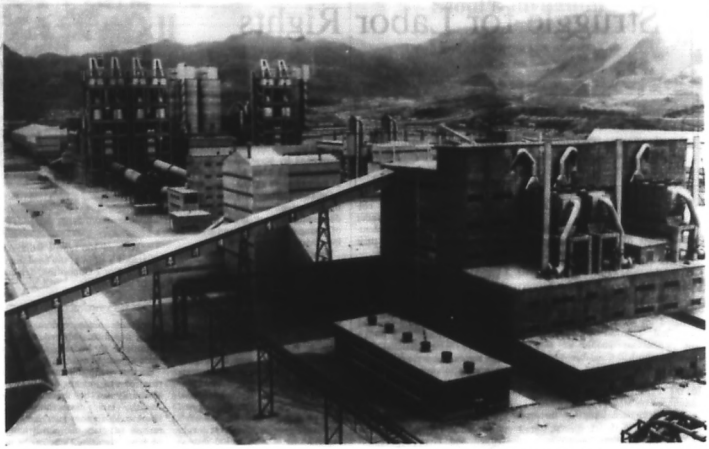
Biggest Cement Factory in Photos

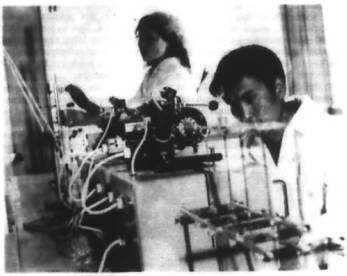
The Sunchon Cement Factory with an annual production capacity of 3 million tons is the biggest cement factory of the DPRK. It is found in Sunchon county in South Pyongan Province.

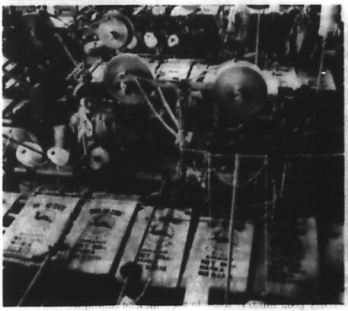
Since there are large high-grade limestone and anthracite mines near the factory, it is constantly fed with pulverized limestone by long-distance belt conveyers. All its production processes are remote-controlled from the central control room where industrial TVs, electronic computers and modern automatic control devices are installed. Each work shop is equipped with efficient dust absorbers.

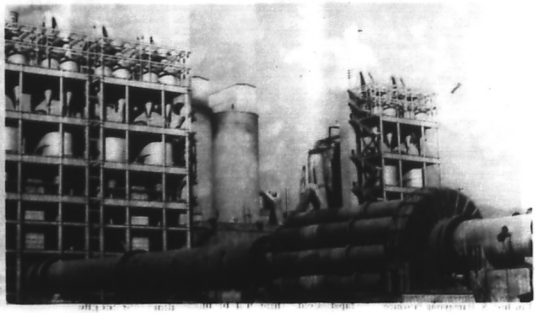
Large quantities of cement produced at this factory are exported to foreign countries. They sell well in foreign markets as their quality is high.

Photo: Clockwise from the top right
- Bird's-eye view of the Sunchon Cement Factory
- The central control room
- An engineer analyzing raw materials
- The rotary kiln
- Production of cement bags
- Packs of cement on belt conveyers
- Freight cars ready to carry cement









"Labor Day Message" Calls for:

Struggle for Labor Rights

Introduced here is a summary of the "Labor Day Message" published by the forcibly disbanded Socialist Party of South Korea (President, Kim Chol), which truthfully describes the plight of the south Korean workers: (Subtitles are ours . . . . Ed.)

Where are the 10 million workers of our country?

In 1980, we ran uphill, gasping for the sake of our survival, and the entire society made efforts to extricate itself from a dark age which had continued over ten years.

Popular indignation which had been suppressed for a time finally flared up against social corruption and political suppression. The masses of people of this country, who had been regarded as incapable and neglected during a period from the Pusan-Masan affair to the expansion of martial law announced on May 17, rose against the oppressor according to their own will.

"We can not endure our position as an appendage to society."

"If we appear before the public as masters of this country, a modernized, independent, democratic and unified state can be established to satisfy the centuries-old desire of the nation."

"Give political and economic sovereignty to the masses of people! "

"Give an independently and peacefully unified fatherland to the divided nation."

As a leading force of history, our 10 million workers have staged vigorous struggles. Despite suppression of workers by capital, textile workers in Chonggae, Seoul, closely united themselves and won a temporary victory in their struggles for improved working conditions and wage hikes. The capacity for united action and a high level of social consciousness of the textile workers astonished those who had underestimated them.

Workers prevented the companies on the verge of collapse due to chronic inflation from going bankrupt, by running the companies by themselves.

In 1980 over 1,800 labor-management disputes occurred in which various violent methods were used. Though a strike as workers' collective action was prohibited under the existing laws, workers, presenting reasonable demands for their survival, opposed the capitalists.

Since the 1960's, the economy had attained a high growth, recording an over 10 percent annual growth rate. However, in 1980 it was characterized by a 5.7 percent negative growth, a 44.2 percent increase in prices and $5.5 billion balance-of-payments deficits. Due to the serious chronic recession, the economy of our country has been on the verge of collapse, with the number of unemployed reaching 800,000 due to the curtailment of productive operations. Large numbers of workers have been discharged and were deprived of their livelihoods. Under these circumstances, workers' real wages declined in 13.5 percent due to a 32.7 percent increase in the prices of commodities, and 10 million workers are unable to obtain sufficient food, clothing and housing.

Workers are leading a hungry life with a 170,000 won (one 5 is approximately 680 won) average monthly wage, far below the minimum monthly living cost of 380,000 won for a five member family. The employers who ignore this fact, are trying to maintain their personal profits which are decreasing under the current recession not by rationalizing management but by lengthening working hours or by forcing workers in human working conditions. Therefore, today the average working hours are 9.4. Due to long working hours and poor labor environments, the numbers of industrial incidents and death at work are higher than in other countries.

Where is the result of the ten percent or more increase in economic growth and the ephocal increase in export highly vaunted by the Pak Jung Hi regime? Where are billions of dollars in foreign currency earned by the expansion of export? For what purpose has the regime used billions of dollars lent by foreign countries? If the regime says that our country's export competitiveness has been weakened by wage hikes, workers' living should have been improved at least to some extent.

On the contrary, the real purchasing power of workers' wages have declined, and workers can not think of saving even a little, and are leading a hand-to-mouth life.

What is the reason for these conditions? Is this miserable life the reward to the 10 million workers after 20-years of hardships?

If so, what is the basic problem? Why can't our country establish an independent national economy, and why is it heavily dependent on foreign capital, when the regime says that our economy is growing at a high rate? The regime has made it difficult for national capitalists to accumulate capital which is necessary for our country's economic development, as it deeply depends on foreign capital instead of making efforts to fully utilize domestic and human resources. It is, in fact, impossible to create domestic demand which is indispensable for a long-term and stable growth of the economy because of the low wage and low-grain price policies of the government which is serving the interests of a handful of monopoly capitalists. The economy of our country has a very weak structure of reproduction. Our country can develop a stable economy only when it heavily depends on foreign countries for natural resources and capital, and only when it sells goods produced by low wage workers to foreign countries.

If oil prices jump, business activity slows down, and if foreign capital is not inducted, the economy is on the verge of collapse, and if export slows down, many firms go bankrupt. Thus, our economy depends entirely on foreign market, foreign capital and foreign resources.

In this political and economic situation, a large number of workers are compelled to withdraw from the forefront of labor movement as many regional branches of trade unions are forced to dissolve themselves economically under measures taken by the administrative authorities. As a result of the revision of the Labor Relations Law, the Union Shop System was abolished, the industrial trade union system has been changed to enterprise-unit trade union system, and a trade union is required to meet conditions to be recognized as a trade union.

Further trade union officials are required to meet qualifications arbitrarily set by the authorities. At the same time, the Labor Dispute Mediation Law has been revised to place more restrictions on labor disputes. Therefore, workers are compelled to take a meek attitude in labor-management relations. Trade unions have weakened their independent stand and the labor movement which has been forced to take a low posture necessarily due to the economic policy of the regime, is placed in an increasingly difficult situation.

The struggle successively staged by the 10 million workers after the 1970's under these circumstances in the course of industrialization of the economy, is continuously developing and expands its sphere of activity, winning partial victories while suffering setbacks. This fact is clearly seen in the brave and determined acts of workers who maintain highly social and political consciousness after the Oct. 26 incident.

The Federation of Korean Trade Unions which does not fully represent the interests of the masses of people, are required to break its shell of and positively participate in a new, independent democratic labor movement together with the 10 million workers.

From this point of view, we positively urge the Federation of Korean Trade Unions to fight for the three rights of labor (the rights of organization, collective bargaining and collective action) or the basic rights of labor, and actively to participate in an independent and democratic labor movement. In addition, the Socialist Party of South Korea also urges the trade unions to establish trade union democracy, to strengthen its solidarity with other grass-roots movements and vigorously develop the labor movement, regarding it as a powerful social force.

Under the above-mentioned tense

(Continued on page 5)

Around 200 female workers of the Y.H. Trading Company, Seoul, staged a sit-in at the headquarters of the New Democratic Party, the then No. 1 Opposition, demanding their reinstatement and payment of back wages. (Aug. 10, 1979)

Workers of the Tonguk Steel Corp., Pusan, S. Kyongsang Prov., armed with iron pipes and clubs, fight up against the riot police, demanding wage hikes. (Aug. 25, 1979)

Helmeted riot policemen remove the Y.H. female workers who continued a sit-in in the headquarters of the NDP. (Aug. 11, 1979)

3,000 miners gathered outside the office of the Tongwon Coal Mining Co. in Sabuk City, demanding wage hikes and an improvement of working conditions. (April 21, 1980)

Seoul's Economy: No Cure-All

Chon Du Hwan's ASEAN tour whose aim it was to boost south Korea's economic ties with the region, vividly showed how the junta depends on foreign forces for economic development and that there is no foreseeable improvement in the economic doldrums.

Sky-Rocketing Price Hike

The Chon junta is now loud-mouthed about the "growth of economy" and "stabilization of people's life" to impress itself as an authority that can respect people's will. However, foreigh observers say that under Chon's military administration the south Korean economy is being further devastated and its crisis is aggravating with each passing day. (The July 4 issue of the Japanese economic weekly "Zaikai Koron") South Korea's economic dislocation is clearly seen in the skyrocketing prices. The Chon junta already drastically upped various commodity prices including oil product prices and service fees to cause a sharp simultaneous rise in the prices of over 300 kinds of goods last year. As a result, last year, in real terms, commodity prices went up 34.6 percent and the wholesale prices 44.2 percent, while the prices of some daily necessaries trembled or quadrupled.

According to the July 4 issue of the daily Hanguk Ilbo, wholesale commodity prices rose 2.3 percent in April and 3.4 percent in May, at a rapid tempo. The paper, quoting ordinary people as saying "these days prices are rising as if they were competing with each other, giving a heavy psychological burden to the people" and "whereas commodity prices are jumping like a wild horse, wages advance at a snail's pace," said that prices of oil, coal, electricity and so on have recently jumped, followed by a rise in the prices of rice and other farm products and in railway fares and postal charges.

Meanwhile, south Korean peasants, unable to make both ends meet, are suffering much due to a sharp rise in the prices of industrial goods at a higher rate than farm products. (The July 2 issue of the Chosun Ilbo) According to the daily, as against 1975, the prices of grains have gone up 299 percent and those of vegetables and fruits 268 percent, whereas the prices of industrial products for agricultural use jumped 331 percent and various rents 256 percent. In the last ten years the rice price rose 5-6 times and that of oil and feed more than 10 times, the paper added.

Raising Various Fees

The junta's measure to raise various fees accelerates runaway price hikes.

The June 29 issue of the Chosun Ilbo said that the junta raised railway passenger and freight rates and postcard charges by 13.5, 23.3 and 33.3 percent and sharply upped communication charges from June 1. The paper said that the recent raise of over 10 kinds of communication charges gives a heavy additional burden to people in their life. The raise of telephone charges which were already too high has become one of the factors stimulating a general price hike.

The same paper said that prices of various medicines in south Korea jumped 100 percent in the last one month. The price of a bottle of digestive which had been 900 won till the end of March, went up 100 percent and the prices of cold remedy and vitamin preparations respectively 44.4 percent and 50.1 percent. The price hike is sharped in medicines much demanded by the people.

On the other hand, recently, the Chon junta has decided to raise passenger fares including bus fares again, the June 26 issue of the Hanguk Ilbo reported. Among them the ordinary fares of urban buses are to jump 22 percent and the student fares 23 percent. Last year, the electricity fees were marked up 51.2 percent and freight rates 41.4 percent to largely increase the burden on the population.

The average price of land plots for housing has gone up 40 times and the price of houses 30 times in the last 14 years, the daily Kyunghyang Sinmun reported on June 15. As a result, the number of dwelling houses built is decreasing year after year. Its rate has dropped 6 percent in the last 10 odd years.

Extortion of Taxes

People's heavy burden of taxes, together with sky-rocketing price increases, is one of the main source of economic doldrums.

Even a south Korean newspaper criticizes the Chon junta's extortion of taxes from the people: "Social life is shadowed by taxes. People have to pay taxes for anything to eat and drink, wherever they may go and whatever they may do." (The June 20 issue of the daily Chung-Ang Ilbo) According to the paper, at a restaurant people should pay 1,200 won for a bowl of food which costs only 300 won, because the added value tax, house rent, income tax, defense tax and so on amounting to over 700 won are added to the price.

For a telephone call people have to pay 20 won, plus 2 won 40 chon in telephone tax and 1 won 60 chon in defence tax. 362 won in added value tax and defence tax are added to an admission ticket to a cinema house. To buy a bottle of medicine or beer people have to pay the liquor tax, defence tax, added value tax and the like which amount to 150 percent of its price.

Because of the above-mentioned sky-rocketing price hike, the gap between the minimum living cost of south Korean working people and their wages is widening year after year.

The gap between their average monthly wages and the minimum living cost at the end of last year was 18 times that ten years before. The lowest monthly cost of living per household at the end of December last year was 394,400 won, or 13.6 times as against ten years before.

Concerns Closed: Unemployment Increased

Due to the economic policy of the junta, enterprises are closing down one after another, the curtailment of operation and production are growing more and more serious and unemployment is increasing. Last year, near 1,200 enterprises closed down and a large number of business bodies curtailed operation. The operation rate of south Korean industrial enterprises decreased by an average of 60 percent. Such big concerns as "Samsung," "Daewoo" and "Hyundai" also reduced their production. As a result, the number of unemployed workers increased 207,000 last year above the previous year.

According to a survey of the employment in minor enterprises in the first quarter of this year, which was carried out by the Central Council of Minor Enterprises, the number of people rendered jobless due to personnel cuts, suspension of operation, closure of factories and curtailment of operation due to business depression swelled by more than 210,000 people in the period.

One of the main causes of the increase in the unemployed is the inflow of a large number of peasants into cities every year, due to acute famine and damage to crops. More than 3.6 million peasants left their farms from 1970 to May this year. This means an annual average of more than 350,000. Hard-pressed fishermen also are leaving their fishing villages.

The seriousness of unemployment is reflected in the rate of employment of new university graduates. The employment rate of new graduates from Seoul National University this year is no more than 33 percent. (The April 15 issue of the daily Chosun Ilbo) In case of local universities, it is as low as 10 to 20 percent.

Foreign Debts; Dependence On Foreign Trade

The foreign loans, principal and interest put together, to be paid by the Chon junta in five years beginning this year amount to 25,800 million dollars, the June 21 issue of the daily Chung-Ang Ilbo, says, quoting data released by the Economic Plannning Board. Of this, the junta has to pay 3,600 million dollars this year. Though weighed down with such heavy foreign debts, it schemes to induce additional loans amounting to 8,212 million dollars, in 1982 and 1983.

South Korea's dependence on foreign trade is further deeping due to the junta's induction of foreign capital and so-called "modernization of foreign trade."

Export trade conducted by the junta under the pretext of "developing the country with export" is under the tight control of foreign monopolies.

87.9 percent of the equipment, 84 percent of the machines and 100 percent of the technique installed or utilized in the export-oriented industries which are the "life line" of the economy, are from foreign countries. As a result, the proportion of foreign capital in export trade reaches as much as 70 percent.

South Korea's export goods are suffering from marketing difficulties whereas goods are imported into there at high prices.

Set on protecting own interests, foreign monopolies are reluctant to import goods from south Korea which processes and assembles raw materials or accessories exported by them, and in case they import south Korean goods, they pay less than the cost of raw and other materials.

In 1980, U.S. monopolies drastically cut the supply of oil to south Korea, while sharply raising its price, and Japanese monopolies upped the prices of raw materials of chemical fibres and other raw materials 18.5 to 84 percent above the previous year.

As the south Korean economy relies on foreign countries for 71.2 percent of its needed raw and other materials and 90-100 percent of its major raw and other materials, such a drastic price rise increases its foreign trade deficits.

The U.S. and Japan account for more than 50 percent of the amount of south Korea's total export. As for its import raw materials, south Korea depends upon the U.S. for almost all its raw cotton and on Japan for a greater part of its processed raw materials. This results in south Korea's increasing economic dependence on U.S. and Japanese monopolies.

(Continued from page 4)

situation, if the Federation of Korean Trade Unions gives serious thought to the urgent "demands of workers and tries to represent the interests of the 10 million workers, instead of leaving itself to political and economic trends, the labor movement of this country will take strong roots in the society as a powerful socio-political movement and will achieve a great success.

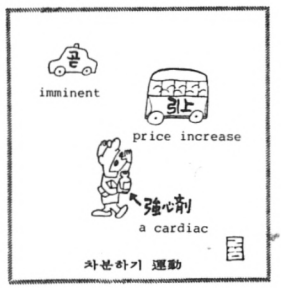
Ret. Lt. Gen. Rejects Seoul's Invitation

A letter sent to Mr. Choe Dok Sin

Recently, the Chon junta is utilizing leaders of the Korean Veterans Association (KVA) in order to win to its side retired high-ranking army officers in alien lands. The Chon junta invited even Lt. Gen. Choe Dok Sin (Ret.) who had visited Pyongyang (the capital of the DPRK), to visit south Korea. This was disclosed by a Korean language newspaper published by Korean residents in Canada. This is regarded as part of 'conversion maneuvers' aimed at these figures who are struggling for the democratization of south Korea in foreign countries. ("Paedal Sinbo" June 20)

Chairman Li Meng Gi of the KVA (former Chief of Naval Operations), was asked by Chon Du Hwan to invite Lt. Gen. Choe Dok Sin, former Foreign Minister, who live in Washington, to extend greetings on "Armed Forces Day" (Oct. 1) in Seoul in a letter dated March 30. It is reported that he conveyed the letter of invitation directly to Lt. Gen. Choe Dok Sin when the former visited the U.S. to participate in "the General Meeting of three Veterans' associations of America" (from Aug. 8 through 12).

But Lt. Gen. Choe rejected the invitation in his letter dated June 1, which said "I cannot but feel greatly indignant, thinking of the fact that the original significance of Armed Forces Day is completely lost."



'Campaign to Calm Oneself'

CHOSUN ILBO, MAY 30

"Lamentations of Winds—Life and History of Korean Female Workers in Japan" (2)

1. Days Spent in Factories and Dormitories

In Poor Village

Korean Paintings "Hunting" By Yun Tu So

(Continued from the previous issue)

"Our life in 1926 was miserable, and is hard for people of the present time to imagine. Those who were able to eat three meals a day were considered well-off. We poor people had only one meal a day. We roasted wheat, turned it into flour by a stone mill and put it in hot water. And we drank it. Sometimes this was our only meal in a day. When I was 13 years old, I came to Japan to become a factory girl. My uncle, who had been staying in Japan for work, came to take me in order to help our family eke out our living, so that we might bid farewell to such a poor life in the village" (*Ryang Myong Jin*).

"It was quite a long time ago that a reporter of a Japanese newspaper company came to me and asked to tell about Koreans in Osaka. At that time the reporter asked me, 'Were you leading a good living in your native place before coming to Japan?' How was it possible for us to lead a good living? An old woman said to the reporter that her living was good. After the reporter returned, she said that she was too shy to say that her living had been hard and poor. Were there any Koreans, whose life was good?

In my village rich fields were owned by Japanese. My family, a tenant farmer tilling the land of a Japanese landlord, was leading a difficult life. If we could eat one meal a day, we were satisfied. One meal in two days was not uncommon. Actually our life was hard. Today's young people can't believe this." (*Ryang Han Suk, born in Puk County, Cheju Island, resident of Higashinari-ku, Osaka City*)

"My family worked on our own land and tenanted a tract of land, at the same time. But we were poor. We were unable to eke out a living by farming alone. We had to earn money by doing other work. Furthermore, my father borrowed money from a usurer and it was very hard for us to pay interest on the borrowed money. If we were late in paying interest, our small plot of land which had been put in pledge was taken away by the usurer. We had to pay interest even if we had to cut meals. I began to work when I was 12 years old.

There were not many jobs in the countryside of Korea. There was a silkworm egg nursery operated by the Katakura Silk Mill in Miryang, my native place, where I found a job and picked mulberry leaves.

From early morning till night we went out to mulberry fields and picked mulberry leaves, until our baskets were full of them. We carried the basket to the nursery. As I was a small girl, I was unable to pick many leaves. I earned only 6 sen a day, though I worked hard. Even adults got 30 sen a day." (*Ku Haeng Ja*)

Katakura silk mill had its main factory in Okaya, Nagano Prefecture, and operated silk reeling mills in many parts of Japan. In order to secure ample supplies of cocoons, the Katakura silk mill obtained vast land tracts in Korea.

It operated silkworm egg nurseries in Taegu, Miryang, Ryongin, Riri, etc. At the same time it also ran silk-reeling mills in Seoul, Hamhung, Chonju. In addition, it made Korean farmers deliver cocoons leaves as land rents. Cocoons were collected and sent to mills in Japan. On the other hand, farm products were given as food to factory workers in Japan. Thus, Katakura Silk Mill got cocoons in Korea and bought farm products cheap from Korean tenant farmers for workers in Japan. Then, Katakura Silk Mill was set only on taking in profits.

Katakura Silk Reeling Mill, a famous silk reeling company, was a leading landowner in Korea. The Miryang silkworm egg nursery started operation in May 1923.

Daily wages in those days averaged 45 sen in Korea and 51 sen in Japan. Considering this, 6 sen mentioned above by Ku Haeng Ja was not a wage at all.

"In those days, it was very difficult for Koreans to have a meal a day. It was taken for granted that they ate a meal a day. We were so hungry. In autumn, we went to mulberry fields to pick and eat mulberries. When we were caught in the act of picked mulberries, we would be beaten. When we were caught by a managing officer, we would insist that we never ate mulberries. The officer ordered us to open our mouths and judged whether we ate mulberries or not. This was because our mouths became purple if we ate mulberries.

"If we would say that we had robbed the company of mulberries, we would be beaten. Mulberries were useless, so there was no problem in giving them to children. However, they wouldn't give them to us.

"We led such a life. I was told by a man who had come from Nagano Prefecture to recruit Korean women that I could earn 3 yen a day. Then I thought I could return our debts if I could earn so much money. Now was it possible for me to earn 3 yen a day. I was deceived easily by the recruit man and came to Japan." (*Ku Haeng Ja*)

"My family was a tenant farmer. I can't explain how poor our family was. There were few family in my village who didn't borrow money from a landlord or usurers. Just before I came to Japan, one family fled from the village by night. Such a case was a daily occurrence. When I heard men speak that Mr. so-and-so took to moonlight flittering, I, though a child, wondered where they were and thought that they might be dying of hunger by the roadside.

"We all were leading a difficult life, and there were beggars who came to us to ask for foods. We didn't have any food, either, and were hungry. But we would give them a spoonful of boiled cereals. This was because we sympathized with them. Then we gave them food. We worried that if we hadn't give a beggar anything to eat, he might set fire to our house. I thought it was no more than a shack which only sheltered us from. Actually, some people had their houses set fire to by beggars who they had beaten.

"Ours was such a difficult life then, so we all thought of how to earn money. Therefore, when men came to recruit factory girls to work in spinning factories in Japan, we thought we were saved. We were happy, thinking that we could send money if we went to Japan". (*Kim Bok Dal, born at Chinju, South Kyongsang Province, resident of Ashikaga City, Tochigi Prefecture*)

"In January and February, every year, poor tenant farmers had nothing to eat. They borrowed rice or barley from landlords or usurers. Land-owners and usurer didn't lend rice or barley easily. We repeatedly asked them and borrowed rice and barley from them. When we reaped a harvest in autumn, we returned rice or barley before anything else. As we were scraping a living, after we returned interest on what we had borrowed, we had nothing to eat in January and February and every person a long, yellow face. Therefore, when spring came and edible wild plants began to sprout, we went to the fields and picked edible wild plants and mugwort. We mixed mugwort in a small amount of rice and boiled it. Or we dried them and made mugwort soup to stave off hunger. Those who ate rice boiled with barley in the morning and ate gruel in the evening (nothing at lunch time) were said to be rich." (*Ryang Myong Jin*)

Poverty on the Korean farm was not due to the inability and idleness of Korean farmers. It was due to the plunder of land and colonial exploitation of Korean farmers by Japan.

Before the annexation of Korea (1910), Japan plundered the land of Korean farmers in various parts of Korea. The plunder of land assumed serious proportions in the name of "land surveys" after the annexation of Korea. The "land survey" was conducted on the plea of establishing a "modern land ownership" system, "surveying land prices" and surveying topographic features. The real purpose of "the land survey" was to plunder the lands of Korean farmers and to protect Korean landowners who assisted in the "land survey". In this way, the Japanese colonialists established the foundations for a land tax and set up a financial system for the colonization of Korea.

In 1910 when the "land survey" began, 8,599 *chongbo* of farm land was bought by the Oriental Development Company. In 1916 the figure was purchased by it reached 104,280 *chongbo*, an indication how vast the land that had been transferred from Korean farmers to the Japanese was. Furthermore, in 1918 when the "land survey" was completed, 64.6% of the paddy fields and 42.6% of the cultivated upland fields became tenant land. Land-owning farmers accounted for only 19.7% of all the farmers, and land-owning farmers who were tenant peasants at the same time reached 77.2% of the total. Thus relations of landownership were established in Korea in which a small number of Japanese and Korean landowners, accounting for only 3% of all the farmers, owned more than half of the arable land of Korea.

Japanese landowners, in particular, owned rich land such as land in Kimje and South Cholla provinces called the granary of Korea. They plundered not only the land of Korean farmers but also imposed high land rents. Land rents were mostly paid in kind. The tenant peasants had to pay fixed land rents irrespective of rich or poor harvests. Even when they had a poor crop, they had to pay 40-50% of their farm produce, and sometimes 80-90% in the worst case.

Therefore, it was very profitable for the Japanese capitalists and land-owners to invest in land in Korea, land was purchased by them in an abnormal way. The issue of the "Bulletin of Korean Agriculture" issued commemorating the 25th anniversary of the "Liberation of Korea" (read "Annexation of Korea") (September, 1935) carried transcripts of a round-table talk of those who plundered lands in Korea. In the article they proudly said: Japanese with revolvers at their waists climbed a small hill with telescopes. When they found rich land, they went down there and set up bulletin boards reading Mr. so-and-so owns this land and enclosed the land with rope. If no Korean owner didn't come up, they owned the land. If the owner showed up, the Japanese threatened him with a revolver and owned the land giving the Korean owner a small amount of money.

In this way, Korean landowners were unlawfully deprived of their land. When a Korean borrowed money from a Japanese usurer mortgaging his land, they drew up a contract reading that the money should be repaid return by 12:00 on the day of repayment. When the Koreans went to the Japanese usurer at 12:00 on that day, to return the money, the Japanese usurer set his watch to 1 o'clock in the afternoon and said to the Korean farmer that he couldn't receive the money and foreclosed the mortgage. Even if Koreans protested against such an outrageous method, their protests were of no use. The police were always on the side of the Japanese.

Regarding the plunder of lands by big banks, even the government-general of Korea wrote in one of its documents, "The Shokusan Bank and the Korea Bank acted like usurers. They not only imposed high interest rates but deprived Koreans of their land. When the Oriental Development Company purchases lands, and an immigrant comes there from Japan, at least more than 5 Korean families lose their livelihoods and they couldn't but emigrate to North or South Manchuria, or to the Maritime Provinces of Siberia. (*Report on the Conditions of Korean People*)

In addition, financial associations accelerated the plunder of land. Ryang Myong Jin said: When those who went to Japan for working in order to return the money they had borrowed from financial associations, failed to send money to Korea, they lost their land. The financial associations were protected by the government-general of Korea after the "financial association regulation" was issued in 1907. The associations developed as official money-lending organs and exploited peasants financially as an assist to the colonial rule of Korea.

By the "forests and fields survey," one Korean farmer had his land deprived after another. The class composition of Korean farmers changed drastically as their livelihoods were destroyed.

Those who were deprived of their land couldn't but be tenant peasants or emigrate to North and South Manchuria, to the Maritime Provinces of Siberia, or to Japan. In the course of this development, not a small number of people died of hunger. In the villages there was still always abandant reserve labor force so that those who remained there competed with each other in securing tenant land, with the result that the land rests were gradually increased, increasing their living difficulties. Tenant peasants increased year after year in Korea.

In 1930, 47.8% of all the Korean farmers were tenant peasants or peasants who were engaged in the slash-and-burn method of agriculture, who didn't have their own land. The latter's life was particularly miserable.

Even former Governor-General of Korea Ugaki Kazunari said "(farmers) . . . complained of food shortage year after year. High interest debts increased. In the harvesting season, they were visited by creditors and the fruit of their efforts was used for repayment of their borrowed foods or for the payment of interest. The food was insufficient and farmers picked grass roots or bark to make a living. Farmers' situation differed according to harvest. In a certain year, about 48% of all the farmers, some 1,200,000 Korean farmers suffered. It can be said that there were many Korean farmers who were evicted from their land, are suffering at the present, without any hope for the future.

South Korean daily "Tong-A Ilbo," dated Aug. 5, 1931, wrote on the miserable situation of farmers:

"The miserable situation of Korean villages. . . . Half the farmers are impoverished. . . . there are no reliable figures about the situation of farmers who occupy 80% of the total Korean population. The agricultural affairs section of the government-general conducted a survey of farm villages of Korea. Statistics of farmers in the provinces where survey work was completed, show that, in North Cholla Province, the granary of Korea, for instance, 60% of all the farm households were impoverished farmers, because there were many landowners and Japanese there . . . ."

These poor farmers became the supply source of cheap labor, which was needed by spinning and silk reeling mills in Japan. Farmers fled to Japan in search of jobs, unable to live in their villages.

Concerning the inflow of Korean

(Continued on page 7)

Foreign Invasion and Independence (4)

Struggles of People

(Continued from the previous issue)
–Struggles against Japan–

The following misconceptions should be removed: the assertions about what is called a Japanese government in Mimana (the southern most part of called Mimana of the Korean Peninsula, which is said to be an ancient colony of Japan); or the theory that the southern part of Korea was ruled by Japan in ancient times.

This theory is to be questioned from the standpoint of the stage of development of Japan's Yamato dynasty and also from archaeological relics. This theory is a product of colonialist historians.

Korea had the following relationships with Japan: the struggles of Silla against Japan described in the "Samguk-sagi" (History of Three Kingdoms); frequent attacks on Koryo in the end of the Koryo period; Hideyoshi's invasion of Korea in 1592; colonization of Korea by Japan toward the end of the Li dynasty.

The Japanese invasion of Korea in ancient times and in the middle period was aimed at satisfying their economic and cultural demand. They tried to satisfy their cultural and economic demand by attacking Korea which was economically and culturally more than Japan.

In particular, Japan's continued attacks on the Korean Peninsula from the end of the Koryo period to the middle period of modern Korea were deeply related to the social and economic confusion of Japan in the era of civil wars.

The cause of Hidaeyoshi's invasion of Korea in 1592 was to be sought in the internal situation of Japan–it was necessary for Hideayoshi to disperse local armed forces operation after the unification of Japan by Hidaeyoshi.

Japan's invasion policy started at the end of the 19th century was different in nature from the above-mentioned aggressive acts. From the viewpoint of world history, however, their invasion of Korea basically related closely to Japan's internal situation–As an imperialist power, Japan sought colonies.

–Two forms of struggle against foreign invasion–

The struggles of the Korean nations against foreign invaders can be classified into two forms–struggles in which the stage, centering on its leaders, played a leading role, and people's struggles.

The former form can be seen in the period of Kochoson, ancient Korea. The Wanggon Castle of Wisi Choson-guk continued resistance for one year to the attack of the Han dynasty of China, which was a strong military power in those days. Because of internal strife among the ruling circles, the Wanggon Castle fell. This means the castle was defended by the state.

After that, struggles against foreign invaders were led by the state in the Koguryo period. In the struggles against the invaders of the Sui and Tang dynasties of China, Koguryo leaders rallied people and won in the struggles against Sui and Tang dynasties in 612 and 645.

In the struggle against the Sui dynasty, Ulchi Mun Dok led Koguryo's armed force, as commander of armed forces in distant areas. Kon Mu, leading a naval force, was appointed as commander of the imperial guards. They led the Koguryo force to victory in the struggle against Sui.

A stiff attitude toward Tang of Yon Kae So Mun sparked the Koryo-Tang clashes. He played a role in the struggle against Tang. Koguryo won the battle at the Ansi-song fortress thanks to the self-sacrificing leadership of Yang Man Chun. During the last day of Koguryo Nam Gon, the second son of Yon Kae So Mun led the anti-Tan struggle, as Uido and Kye Baek, loyal subjects of Paekche, became props of the state at its final years.

The 50,000-strong army of Silla was beaten by a 5,000 death-defying corps led by Kye Baek. Silla was defeated by Koguryo four times in the Hwansan struggle, though Silla had four times the armed forces of Koguryo. At the time Kim Fum Chun, who was vice-commander of the army, had his son Ban Gul killed in battle, and Kim Pum Il, who was also vice-commander, saw his son Kwan Chang, 16 years old and member of the Hwarang (Flower Knights–a sort of military academy) follow the same fate. But the army led by them defeated Koguryo.

This posture taken by the leaders of Silla was also shown when they fought a pan-national struggle against Tang China, when Tang China showed its territorial ambition to conquer the Korean Peninsula after the downfall of Koguryo and Paekche. The struggle of the state Silla centering on its leaders against foreign invasion continued until Khitan invaded Koryo in the early days of Koryo. At the time So Hui and Kang Kam Chang made their appearances as national heroes in the struggles against the invaders.

Li Song Gye who defeated Koryo and took the throne in 1392, drove away the Mongolians, smashed the invasion of the Red Turbans and the Japanese marauders along the south sea shores.

In the ancient period, political power and military power were united. Therefore, those who took political power couldn't but lead the struggle against foreign invaders. These struggles are distinguished from those of the latter period, which were centered on people themselves.

(To be continued)

(Continued from page 6)

farmers to Japan, a survey entitled "Why Do Koreans Come to Japan?", by the investigation section of the social affairs division of the Osaka Municipal Office, noted:

"Without exception, they migrate to Japan, in the hope of obtaining better jobs. However, most of them don't have enough money to move to other places, have to settle together in one or two places. On the other hand, employers can easily recruit many low-wage Korean workers without any competition. As a result, some Koreans have to work for nine or nine and half hours a day with a daily wage of some 20 sen. How miserable their life was!"

Korean farmers emigrated to Japan in order to live. Korean females were not exception.

(To be continued)

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"Lamentations of Winds–Life and History of Korean Female Workers in Japan" was published by Tabata Bookstore Company.

Authors of this book:

Mr. Kim Chan Jong, free-lance, former staff writer of "Toitsu Hyoron", a monthly on Korean affairs published in Japan.

Ms Pang Son Hwi, free-lance, former journalist of "Choson Sinbo", the Korean-language daily published in Japan.

NEWS DISPATCH FROM PYONGYANG

June 10

* Om Yong Sik, newly-appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the DPRK to the Kingdom of Sweden, presented his credentials to Swedish King Carl Gustaf.

June 11

* Guinean President Ahmed Sekou Toure met the party and government delegation of the DPRK headed by Pak Sung Chul, Member of the Political Bureau of the CC of the WPK and Vice-President of the DPRK, on a visit to his country.

Vice-President Pak Sung Chul conveyed a personal letter and cordial regards of President Kim Il Sung to the Guinean President.

The Guinean president inquired after the health of the DPRK President and expressed deep thanks for the personal letter and cordial regards.

June 12

* A construction technique delegation of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma headed by U Ohn Shwe, Command Engineer of the Construction Corporation of the Ministry of Construction of Burma, arrived in Pyongyang by train.

* Mohammad Sadeq Khalhali, Member of the Parliament and Judge of the Islamic Revolutionary Court of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and ahis companion flew into Pyongyang.

* A delegation of Beijing University of China headed by Ma Shijiang, Vice-Chairman of the Educational Affairs Committee of the university, arrived in Pyongyang by air.

June 15

* A Kuwaiti sports team headed by Ahmad Abdul Muhsen Al-Faraj, supervisor of sports bodies at the Kuwaiti Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor, arrived in Pyongyang by plane.

* Wan Li, Member of the Secretariat of the CC of the Communist Party of China and Vice-Premier of the State Council, met the delegation of Rodong Sinmun (organ of the CC of the WPK) headed by Chang Ha Chon on a visit to China at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

June 16

* A Chinese friendship visiting group headed by Guo Zhaoji, Deputy Chief of the General Office of Foreign Affairs of Sichuan Province of the People's Republic of China, arrived in Pyongyang by train.

* A delegation of the Chugoku, Shikoku and Kyushu Solidarity Committee of Japan headed by Takasuka Osamu, General Secretary of the Tokushima Prefectural Council of Trade Unions, Japan, and General Secretary of the Tokushima Prefectural People's Council Supporting the Independent and Peaceful Reunification of Korea, arrived in Pyongyang by air.

June 17

* A delegation of the Korean National Peace Committee headed by O Guk Il left Pyongyang by plane to attend the International Conference for Solidarity with Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organisation against Plots of Imperialism and Its Allies scheduled in Syria.

June 19

* A Korean Li Man U, professor at Millersville State College in Pennsylvania State, the U.S., arrived in Pyongyang by plane.

* S.S. Pradhan Pagal, editor of the Nepalese weekly "Naya Yug", arrived in Pyongyang by plane.

* A youth delegation of the General Council of Trade Unions of Japan (Sohyo) headed by director of its youth department Okubo Kimio arrived in Pyongyang by plane.

June 20

* A forestry delegation of the DPRK headed by Kim Yong Hwa left Pyongyang by plane for a visit to the Soviet Union.

(KCNA)

Korean Workers on US Bases

In July 1976, Korean civilian employees of the US military formed a nationwide organization to fight for the rights of the more than 14,000 base workers who are employed by the US military outside its formal contracts. The south Korean Struggle Organization was born in an attempt to correct the systematic exploitation of civilians working on US military bases. Almost 2 years later, after numerous appeals, the baseworkers have still seen no improvement in their situation.

WHO FORMED THE STRUGGLE ORGANIZATION?

Baseworkers who do the dirty work of the US military in south Korea: cleaning barracks, doing laundry, making beds, shining shoes. They are the menial labor work force. In US military jargon they are known as "Personal Hire Employees" (PHE), a euphemism which is useful to the US military in justifying their neglect. 3200 PHE workers have joined the Struggle Organization.

WHAT IS THEIR WORK SITUATION?

Non-contract base workers have been denied even the basic labor rights granted to the other category of Koreans employed by the US military, the "Appropriated Fund Employees". AFE workers at least receive wages ranging from $120 to $185 per month, get holidays, severance pay and have an organized system of hiring and dismissal to which an employee can appeal. The 14,500 PHEs without even this protection are about half the total of Koreans who work on US bases.

Non-contract base workers are paid collectively by units of GI's, so their wages vary from $29 to $65 per month. They have no job security. Disgruntlement by GIs over the cost of their individual share in payment of PHEs has led to lay offs of the workers. The system serves to perpetuate enmity between the GIs and the workers over financial matters. As there are no set hours for PHEs they can be made to work overtime for little or no compensation.

WHAT POSITION DOES THE US MILITARY TAKE?

The Department of Army defends this system of abuse as being legal by saying the workers are hired personally by individual GIs and by pointing to the provisions of ROK law and the agreement between the US and south Korea concerning the stationing of troops. A provision of the Status of Forces Agreement between the US and the ROK excludes "domestics" from the definition of employees of the US Forces in Korea. Article X of the Korean Labor Standards Law excludes "domestic servants" from the protection of the law. Though domestic servants who work for well-off Koreans certainly do not have ideal working and living situations, they normally at least have a place to live with the family they serve. PHEs who work in the barracks are almost all providing for families of their own.

Yet the PHEs are not personally hired, nor are they domestics. They are hired through base personnel offices; they never see their "employers" until they are assigned to the unit as a whole. They do much of the same work (in the case of dining hall workers exactly the same work) as the AFEs who are given full labor rights. Thus the discrimination between the two groups is based on a paper distinction alone.

WHAT POSITION HAS THE SOUTH KOREAN GOVERNMENT TAKEN?

In Spring of 1977, Korean government intimidation heightened against the PHE workers' attempt to organize themselves to win some basic rights. Several members of the Struggle Organization had their lives threatened by the Korean CIA. When the Organization attempted in April 1977 to hold a meeting of representatives from several bases, a keynote speaker and two other Korean baseworkers were picked up by Korean plainclothesmen and driven around in cars until the meeting was over. The KCIA has talked directly to one of the organizers to warn the workers not to strike.

The Struggle Committee has made appeals to the US military, the Korean government Labor Office, and directly to President Park, but they have received no response.

HOW WILL THE PHE WORKERS BE AFFECTED BY TROOP WITHDRAWAL?

If Carter does live up to his promise to withdraw all ground troops from Korea, the PHE workers will lose their jobs. Unless special arrangements are made, they will receive no severance pay and will get no assistance in finding new jobs. Approximately 80% have been working on US military bases for 20 years or more and have families to support. In 1976 the Korean government itself set $162/month as the minimum livable income for a family of five, so it is unlikely the PHEs have any savings.

WHAT DO THE BASE WORKERS WANT?

1) A graduated pay scale beginning at $120 per month rising to $187.50 after 10 years of service; overtime, holiday and severance pay; a system of hearings and appeal in the case of dismissal.
2) The right to organize as a union under the Foreign Organization Employees Union.
3) An end to payment by collection from the units; appropriation of government funds to provide wages.

(Bulletin of American Friend Service Committee; 1980 Edition)

Japan's Accession to The Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and Koreans In Japan

The Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees was ratified and amendments to the Immigration Control Order and amendments to the National Pension Law and Child Support Allowance Law, were approved unanimously by the House of Councillors on June 5.

The convention and the necessary amendments to the immigration ordinance, the national pension and other laws are to become effective as from Jan. 1 next year.

These laws have important implication not only for Indochinese refugees in Japan, but also for over 700,000 Korean residents here.

These are neither a god-send nor a benefit granted by the Japanese government. Credit must go to Chongryun (the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan) which has struggled to defend Koreans' rights with the backing of world public opinion.

They also reflect a world-wide demand for equal human rights to all people and abolition of racial discrimination and persecution, a movement which has grown in momentum since the end of World War II.

Let us look at those amendments to the Immigration Control Order and other benefits which are related to Korean residents in Japan.

Main points of the revised Immigration Control Order which are related with Korean residents are: 1) to give unconditional status of permanent residence to those who have lived in Japan since World War II and their children who were born before April 28, 1952; 2) to issue travel certificates with reentry visa to Koreans wishing to go abroad, and to allow them to extend the period of stay abroad in case they give tenable reasons for it; 3) to exempt poor Koreans and physically handicapped Koreans from deportation and not to deport Koreans to any suppressive countries, including south Korea.

The status of residence of Koreans here is divided into five categories: 1) those who come under Law No. 126; 2) special residents; 3) those who have been given permission of special residence; 4) ordinary permanent residents and 5) general prermanent residents.

Koreans here who come under Law No. 126 are those who have stayed in Japan since before the war and their children who were born before April 28, 1952.

The amendments provide that status of permanent residence is given unconditionally to those who come under Law No. 126 and special residents who have violated the criminal or penal law can receive the status of permanent residence.

It is also pointed out that after the enactment of the revised Immigration Control Order, it won't be necessary for a Korean resident to renew the registration in Japan once in every three years or to renew the registration of their right to permanent residence in Japan.

The amendments, giving multiple reentry permission to Koreans here, provides that a travel permit shall be given to a Korean here with a reentry visa and that he shall be allowed to extend his stay period to less than one year if he can present an acceptable reason that he cannot come back within the term of validity.

In the past, Koreans here have been inconvenienced in going abroad because quite a few countries don't recognize the entry of a Korean traveler who has a reentry permit certificate issued by the Japanese Ministry of Justice but not a passport. When the amendments are enforced, Koreans here can be free to make a trip to the countries that have diplomatic relations with Japan.

In ratifying the U.N. convention on refugees, the Japanese government, to some extent, grappled the problem of the treatment of Korean residents in Japan such as the rights of residence, access to social security benefits, including citizens pensions.

However, a problem is that the Japanese authorities have decided to disqualify those Koreans aged over 35 for national pensions including an old-age pension, one of the two major pension systems together with welfare pension.

They argued that an old-age pension, an important component in the national pension system applies only to those who have payed dues for more than 25 years from ages over 20 years to 60 years and that people of over 35 in age cannot meet a provison of the system.

In view of historical background of Korean residents here, the Japanese government should rescind aged restrictions reserved for all the Korean residents in applying for the national pension (old-age pension).

In addition, the Japanese authorities still discriminate Korean nationals here from foreign residents in general.

They also have not rectified such unreasonable discriminative steps as forcing the duty upon Korean residents in Japan to carry their "Alien Registration Card" always with them, present them whenever asked to show them and affix their thumb prints to them.

Rodong Sinmun on Chon's ASEAN Tour

Chon Du Hwan, upon returning to Seoul from his Southeast Asian tour, tried to make it appear as if his tour were a sort of "event" and babbled that it "contributed" to implementing his so-called "peaceful unification" policy. Denouncing this Rodong Sinmun July 11 carried a signed commentary headlined "Traitor's Tour for Split."

Chon's remarks are a hypocritical sophism aimed at covering up his criminal nature which was brought to light during his Southeast Asian tour, the commentary remarks, and says:

His Southeast Asian tour was to peddle the "two Koreas" policy putting up the spurious signboard of "peaceful unification" and "mutual visits" and to prettify his military fascist dictatorial "regime" with ballyhoo about "stability" and so on and get so-called "international support" to his anti-popular rule.

When he toured Southeast Asian countries, urging a "proposal for simultaneous entry into the U.N." to create "two Koreas," he showed his true colors.

The proposal for "mutual visits" he advertised in the whole period of his tour is a camouflage to veil his splittist nature and a variety of the "two Koreas" policy.

During his tour he opposed and maliciously spoke ill of the proposal to found a Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo advanced at the 6th Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea, the commentary notes, and continues:

(Continued from page 1)

gle for the development and prosperity of the country and increase of its might.

The Korean people's just cause of the independent and peaceful reunification of the country is faced with a grave obstacle owing to the vicious obstructive machinations of U.S. and its agents.

The United States is zealously inciting the military dictator Chon Du Hwan and his clique bent on fascist suppression to division and war, fascism and treachery, pursuing the "two Koreas" policy in an attempt to keep hold on south Korea as its colony, military base and bridgehead for aggression. The United States has deployed large armed forces of aggression and even nuclear weapons in south Korea and is staging war exercises almost every day in the sky, on the ground and in the sea.

But the U.S. and their henchmen can never hold in check our people's just cause of the independent and peaceful reunification of the country.

No matter how loudly he may advertise "mutual visits," he cannot conceal the fact that his Southeast Asian tour was a swing to continue "two Koreas" under the slogan of "peaceful unification."

Through his recent tour he tried in vain to create an impression that his fascist "regime" has been "stabilized."

His treacherous nature was also revealed in his prattling during his tour that "peace" should be "fixed" and a "collective security system" be "established" in the Asian and Pacific region.

This, after all, bespeaks that his trip was a one to advertise the Asian policy of U.S. seeking to form a new aggressive military bloc under the name of "collective security system" in the Asian and Pacific region and to serve the aggressive schemes of U.S. to dominate Asia.

It was natural that Chon Du Hwan was treated coldly and cursed and denounced as a heinous murderer and fascist tyrant by peoples and public circles in a number of Southeast Asian countries.

The commentary stresses:

However hard he may try to disguise himself with the proposal for "mutual visits" and the like, he cannot be a party to a dialogue for reunification. He must be punished in the name of the nation.

Chon Du Hwan must apologize to the people for his treacherous crimes and step down from "power" at once.

Floods Hit S. Korea after Four-Month Long Drought

According to the announcements made by the national disaster relief committee on July 4 and July 13, 18 people were killed and 13 others reported missing after heavy rains lashed south Korea. About 1,200 flood victims were reported across the nation with 395 houses destroyed or submerged and 829,000 hectares of farmland under water after the torrential downpour. Property damage was estimated at $2.4 million. Photo shows the front page of July 2 issue of south Korean daily Dong-A Ilbo.

Kwangju Ilbo

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